

REMARKS

In paragraph 1 of the Action, claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Rive. In paragraph 6 of the Action, claims 10-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rive in view of Davis et al.

In view of the rejections, claims 1, 7, 8, 10 and 14 have been amended. Claim 6 has been cancelled, and new claim 16 has been filed.

A method of conducting a business with a treating apparatus of claim 1 comprises installing the treating apparatus to a user; connecting the treating apparatus at the user to a server on a seller through a communication line; using the treating apparatus upon request from the user and permission of the seller through the communication line; measuring a using time of the treating apparatus by the user through the communication line; and charging a fee of the treating apparatus based on the using time of the treating apparatus. The fee of the treating apparatus includes a part, based on the using time, of an entire cost of the treating apparatus.

A system of conducting a business with a treating apparatus of claim 10 comprises a terminal connected to the treating apparatus on a user's side, and accounting means. The terminal connects the treating apparatus to a communication line, and the accounting means is installed at a server on a seller's side and connected to the communication line. The accounting means is actuated whenever the treating apparatus is used, calculates a fee according to a using condition of the treating apparatus through the communication line and charges the fee to the user. The fee includes a part, based on the using time, of an entire cost of the treating apparatus.

Namely, in the method and the system of the invention, the fee includes a part of the entire cost of the treating apparatus based on the using time. The user is not required to pay the entire cost

of the treating apparatus at once, and this system is different from rent and lease.

Rive is directed to a method and apparatus for configuring a hard disk and providing support. A computer system 50 can be connected through an internet 80, and a corrective operation can be performed remotely using the internet. The computer system may be leased to charge a fixed monthly fee, or other periodic fee, or a one-time lump sum payment.

In the invention, the treating apparatus is installed at the user and is connected to the server through the communication line. In Rive, although the computer system is connected through the internet, the treating apparatus is not connected to the internet.

In the invention, the fee includes a part, based on the using time, of the entire cost of the treating apparatus. The fee system in Rive is lease or other periodic fee, and is entirely different from the fee system of the invention.

Rive does not disclose or suggest the features in claims 1 and 10 of the invention.

Davis et al. is directed to a remote print press proofing system having a camera or cameras for digitizing the image, so that the client may see a color corrected digital image. An image in the system can be accessed through a network 18 from a client computer 26. In the system, the time elapsed during the press proof session, the amount of data transmitted from the printers to the clients, the number of still images transmitted and the number of clients connected to a printer for invoice can be recorded (column 5, lines 40-50).

In the invention, the treating apparatus is installed at the user and is connected to the server through the communication line. In Davis et al., although the computer is connected through the internet to the print press proofing system, the user does not have the treating apparatus.

Also, in the invention, the fee includes a part, based on the using time, of the entire cost of the treating apparatus. The fee system in Davis et al. is based on the amount or number of use, which is entirely different from the fee system of the invention.

Davis et al. does not disclose or suggest the features in claims 1 and 10 of the invention.

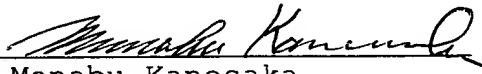
As explained above, the cited references do not disclose or suggest the features of the invention. Even if the cited references are combined, the claims of the invention are not obvious from the cited references.

Reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

One month extension of time is hereby requested. A credit card authorization form in the amount of \$120.00 is attached herewith for the one month extension of time.

Respectfully Submitted,

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